

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13308

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, JULY 15-21

HERE REPEAT OF AMCONSUL NHA TRANG MESSAGE 716 FYI/ACTION QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0716

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASE-FIRE OVERVIEW, JULY 15-21

1. SECURITY SITUATION: INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION AVERAGED JUST OVER A DOZEN A DAY DURING THE WEEK, DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK. FIGHTING REMAINED CONCENTRATED IN KONTUM AND BINH DINH. BETTER WEATHER TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK PERMITTED 36 TACAIR STRIKES IN KONTUM, AND 12 IN BINH DINH.

2. KONTUM: ON THE KONTUM FRONT, RVNAF REMAINS STALLED IN
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ITS EFFORTS TO RETAKE POLEI KRONG AND TRUNG NGHIA, WHICH WERE

CAPTURED BY THE ENEMY ON JUNE 7-9. A GOADING VISIT FROM MR 2 COMMANDER, MAJ.GEN. TOAN TOOK PLACE ON JULY 18-19, BUT DID NOT RESULT IN THE EXPECTED RELIEF OF UNSUCCESSFUL UNIT COMMANDERS. BRIG. GEN CAM, THE 23RD DIVISION'S COMMANDER, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE PERSUADED TOAN NOT TO MAKE THE THREATENED CHANGES. OUR COUNSUL IN KONTUM REPORTS THAT THE CONTINUING FAILURE TO RETAKE THE VILLAGES, COUPLED WITH THE CONSEQUENT CRITICISM FROM MR 2 HEADQUARTERS, HAS LOWERED THE MORALE OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. TROOPERS SHOW LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR ADVANCING THE CAMPAIGN. THE HIGHER PRICE OF RICE CHARGED ARVN SOLDIERS IS ADVERSELY EFFECTING MORALE. POL REMAINS IN SHORT SUPPLY, AND AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN CUT FROM A PREVIOUS 3,000 ROUNDS A DAY TO A CURRENT 500.

3. QUANG DUC: IN THE PAST FIVE WEEKS, THE NVA HAVE FORCED RF TO ABANDON THREE POSITIONS IN "OLD BU PRANG" AREA AND THUS CEDE THE ENEMY ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS. THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO PRESS THE RF'S FALL-BACK POSITIONS WITH NIGHTLY HARASSMENT AND INTERDICTION FIRE. THE PROVINCE CHIEF BELIEVES THE CIVIL POPULATION IN THE ENEMY-HELD "BU PRANG" AREA HAS INCREASED FROM 200-300 TO ABOUT 1,000 IN RECENT WEEKS. THIS AREA -- THE LAST ON THE MR 2/CAMBODIAN BORDER THAT BOASTED A GVN PRESENCE -- MAY BE A PART OF DEVELOPING VC/NVA LOGISTICS SYSTEM.

4. PHU YEN: THE MINISTER OF HEALTH VISITED PHU YEN JULY 16-17 AND INAUGURATED THE PROVINCIAL DAN CHU CHAPTER. THE FAILURE OF THE PREVIOUS PROVINCE CHIEF (LT.COL. NGUYEN VAN TO) TO ESTABLISH THE DAN CHU ORGANIZATION IN HIS PROVINCE MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS REPLACEMENT IN APRIL.

5. KHANH HOA: THE DROUGHT PREVALENT DURING MAY AND JUNE, BUT BROKEN BY RAIN IN JULY, APPEARS TO HAVE DESTROYED THE PRODUCE OF 10 PERCENT OF THE 17,000 HECTARES UNDER CULTIVATION IN THE PROVINCE. OTHER COASTAL PROVINCES HAVE PROBABLY SUFFERED SIMILAR LOSSES.

6. NINH THUAN: PRESIDENT THIEU VISITED NINH THUAN JULY 14, LAID THE CORNERSTONE FOR A SUGAR MILL, AND NOTED IN EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS THAT "IF THE COMMUNISTS ASSASSINATE (AM SAT) OUR PEOPLE, WE SHOULD GO OUT AND ASSASSINATE THEM."
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7. BINH THUAN: ROUTINE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY CONTINUED IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK. ON JULY 15, THE PROVINCIAL DISABLED VETERANS ORGANIZATION ELECTED A NEW CHAIRMAN, MR. NGUYEN XET. ON THE SAME DAY, THE CONG-NONG PARTY'S BINH THUAN CHAPTER FORMALLY DISBANDED IN PREPARATION FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, POSSIBLY IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER. THE

PROVINCE'S DAN CHU PARTY CHAIRMAN, MR. NGUYEN XUAN QUANG, IS AWAITING THE RESPONSE OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND SAIGON DAN CHU LEADERS TO A SENATE ELECTION CAMPAIGN PLAN HE SUBMITTED ON JULY 7. (WE WILL FORWARD TRANSLATION OF PLAN BY AIRGRAM.)

8. ICCS/TPJMC. CONSUL PLEIKU/KONTUM REPORTS, AFTER TALKING TO CHIEF GVN REGION III TPJMC AND THE HEAD OF ICCS REGION III CANDEL, THAT THE PRG ON JULY 25 MAY CARRY OUT ITS OFT-POSTPONED RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS: 8 IN KONTUM, 5 IN PHU YEN AND 10 IN KHANH HOA. HE ALSO LEARNED THAT A PRG JMC GROUP WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN PLEIKU FROM SAIGON ON JULY 25TH OR 26TH AND THEN GO ON TO DUC CO ON THE 26TH BY CHINOOK HELICOPTERS. AT DUC CO THE PRG WAS EXPECTED TO RELEASE 410 ARVN POW'S, WHO WOULD BE FERRIED OUT IN REPEATED TRIPS BY THE CHINOOKS ON THE 26TH, 27TH AND 28TH.

9. CONSUL PLEIKU/KONTUM ALSO REPORTS, FROM THE SAME SOURCES, THAT ON JULY 21 A PRG JMC LIAISON DELEGATION WAS TO TRAVEL TO PHU CAT, BINH DINH PROVINCE, TO WORK WITH THE ICCS IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF A NUMBER OF PRG COMPLAINTS OF GVN CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN THAT AREA. A SIMILAR GROUP IS EXPECTED TO GO TO KONTUM ON THE 22ND TO ACT AS LIAISON WITH THE ICCS FOR PRG COMPLAINTS THERE. CONSUL PLEIKU/KONTUM WAS NOT ABLE TO LEARN WHETHER OR NOT THE GVN JMC WOULD ALSO ASSIGN LIAISON OFFICERS TO THE INVESTIGATIONS.

10. IN THE MIDST OF WHAT, IF IT TRANSPIRES, MAY BE A VERY BUSY TIME FOR ICCS REGION III, THE CANADIANS WILL CARRY OUT THEIR WITHDRAWAL. THEY EXPECT TO VACATE TEAM SITES BY JULY 24TH AND REGION HEADQUARTERS (PLEIKU) BY THE 26TH. ON JULY 31ST THEY SHOULD BE GONE FROM SAIGON. TO ADD TO THE EXPECTED CONFUSION THE INDONESIAN ROTATION IS ALSO IN FULL SQING, WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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A NUMBER OF DELEGATION MEMBERS ALREADY GONE.

11. ICCS REGION IV HAS BECOME ALMOST COMPLETELY INACTIVE, WITH NO INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED OR REQUESTED AND NO VIOLATIONS RECORDED BY THE REGION IV GVN JMC ELEMENT DURING THE WEEK. CANADIANS AT REGION HEADQUARTERS (PHAN THIET) WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR DEPARTURE FRO SAIGON, SCHEDULED FOR JULY 25, AND THEIR INDONESIAN COLLEAGUES WITH THEIR CONTINUING ROTATION PROCESS WHICH INCLUDES SOME SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FROM THE REGION ON JULY 21.

ENGLE UNQUOTE
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